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DEWAN OF MYSORE

161 Tel P:1-3

(Cecil Hotel,)
Camp - SIMLA,
11th September 1920.

H. Exn. The H. His Highness
The
Maharaja

My Dear Maharaja

I sent you a telegram as soon as I arrived.

I found a letter waiting for me from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, fixing Monday (10 a.m.) for the interview. Mr. Barton also wrote a letter to say that he had fixed a meeting with Sir Thomas Ward to-day at 3.30 p.m., and soon after lunch I went to Sir Thomas Ward's rooms at the United Service Club and met both Mr. Barton and Sir Thomas Ward there. As Sir Thomas was not present at the beginning, I had a few minutes' conversation with the Resident who is going away to-morrow. I gathered that he has had conversations all round with several people and was staying with the Viceroy till yesterday. He said that Sir John Wood might see me and advised me to see his Deputy first, and as regards Financial Questions the Deputy Secretary also before seeing the Finance Member.

I had a little argument with the Resident over the C & M Station Surplus question, for he was still harping on the theory that paying any surplus to the Durbar was entirely an act of grace and that we are not entitled to it. It appears that he has been trying to consolidate the schemes for the improvement of the C & M Station while here, but I convinced him that it is not fair to go back on a promise of regular payment of actual surplus on the Some of to name joint schemes Eg. Water Supply & Drainage were in regard to which the Resident agreed that it was desirable mere prospective schemes of expenditure. He then said: "Would you be satisfied if you get part of the money now?" I replied that it is necessary that we should get the whole of the surplus revenues of last year paid down; and I am going to press the matter while here.

In regard to the Harbour Scheme, the Resident intimated that he heard that the Government of India were not opposed to the granting of jurisdiction provided the Durbar agreed to the appointment

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of a British Officer as Port Commissioner. I am going to elicit further information on this point later on.

I had a long discussion with Sir Thomas, the Resident being present, on the Arbitration Case, explaining to him the several stages of our informal conversations with Madras, and Sir Thomas agreed that the Madras position was not tenable and it was very unfair to Mysore that having made the latter agree to the Limit Gauges as being the most important point in the whole negotiations, they should now turn back and propose other conditions to make the terms impossible. It is quite evident that the Government of India are entirely in sympathy with Mysore. And in regard to the practical action to be taken at this stage, both the Resident and Sir Thomas Ward thought that it is better to await the result of the last Durbar communication to Madras. In the meantime, as I pointed out that Mr. Howley is shortly to retire and may on that pretext not take the responsibility himself in closing the negotiations it would be desirable if something is done either to expedite matters or to let him continue till the matter is closed, Sir Thomas suggested that he would have a letter sent from the Government of India, on Monday, to Lord Willingdon, suggesting that Mr. Howley may be put on special duty in connection with this case specially and their own Reservoir Project if necessary and the Government of India would sanction his retention even after he retires. I think this move might help to bring matters to a head, for, in that case, Mr. Howley will not have any excuse of shirking responsibility and transferring it to his successor. Our discussions lasted for over two hours, and in the end, before saying good-bye to Mr. Barton, I thanked him for the assistance he had rendered in connection with my visit to Simla and said I would see him on my return. The President is going to Ooty soon after his return to Bangalore and has promised to speak to Lord Willingdon regarding this Arbitration Case and to suggest to him that should matters reach the stage of settlement, it may be desirable to bring down

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Sir Thomas Ward as Technical Adviser to both parties so that the agreement may be drawn up on sure and sound lines. This suggestion was mine and/as it appeared that the Madras Government were rather suspicious of Sir Thomas Ward's interference, it was decided that the Resident should sound the views of the Madras Government and make them convey the invitation to Sir Thomas, thus making the matter easy. Before leaving, Mr. Barton told me that it was no use my discussing the question of the future policy of the C & M Station because he tried to ascertain something tangible in that respect and the only reply he got was that they had no policy. He added that so long as he was there he would see that no surprise is sprung on the Durbar in this respect and that he would oppose any very large schemes of development.

To-morrow I shall take some rest and refresh my memory in regard to questions for discussion, and on Monday I shall after my interview with His Excellency the Viceroy, make arrangements to see the Government of India officials.

Yours sincerely

C. Rangacharya

Mirza M. Ismail, Esq., B.A.,
Huzur Secretary to His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore, Bangalore.